



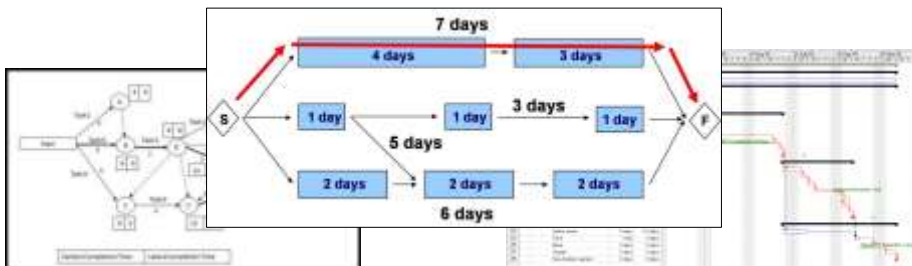
Scheduling 101

By: Frank Chupka, PE



What is a CPM Schedule?

A Critical Path Method (CPM) Schedule is a timeline made up of several time periods and events that control each other.





Time Periods



Great War/Jazz Age

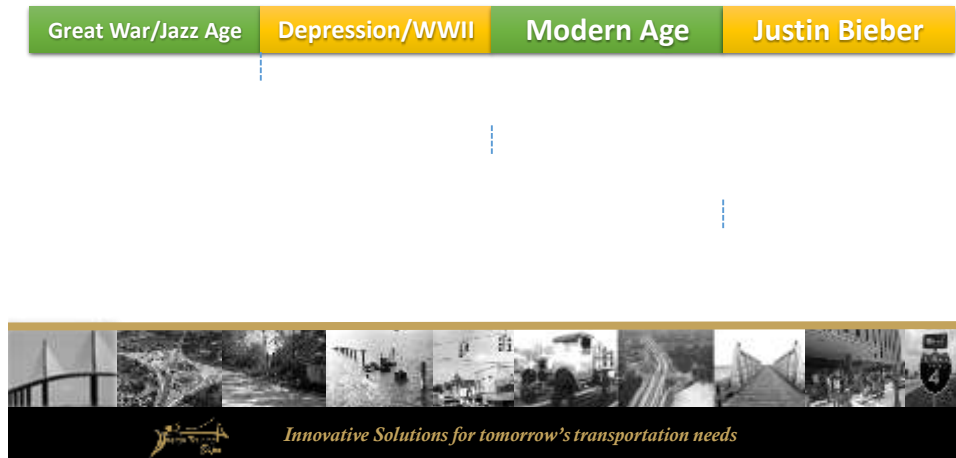
Depression/WWII

Modern Age

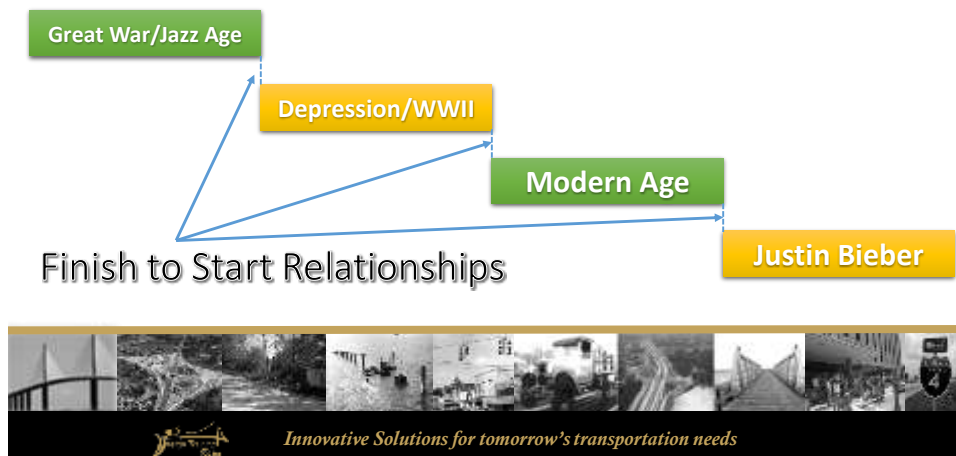
Justin Bieber



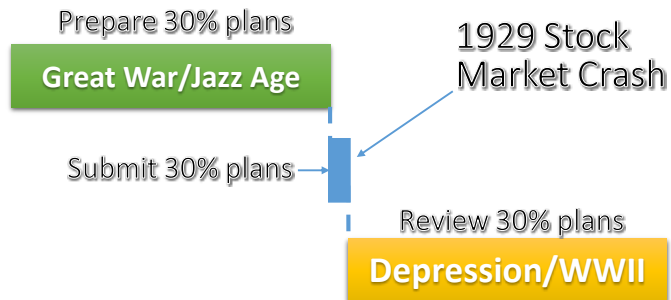
Time Periods



Time Periods = Activities



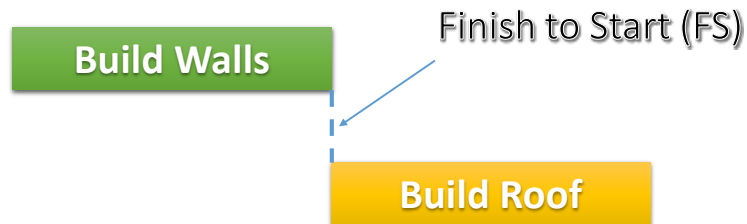
Events = Events



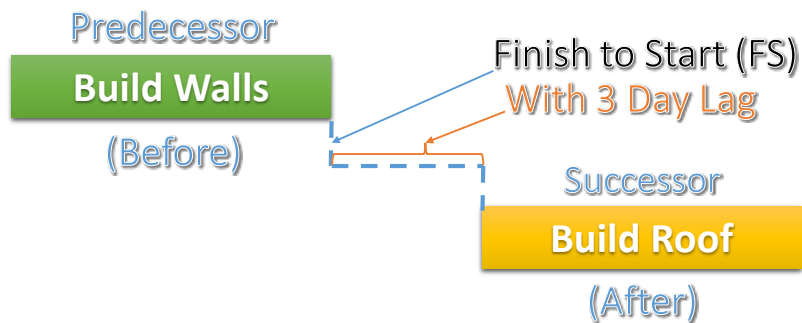
Relationships



Relationships



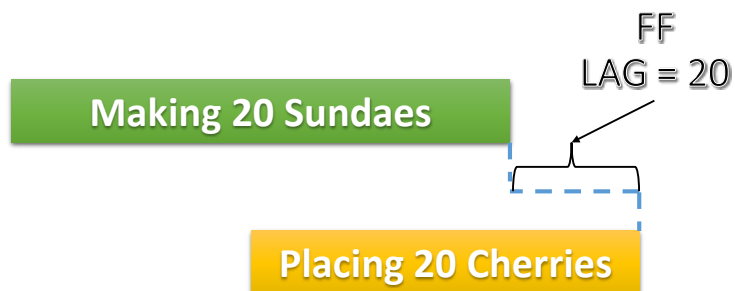
Relationships



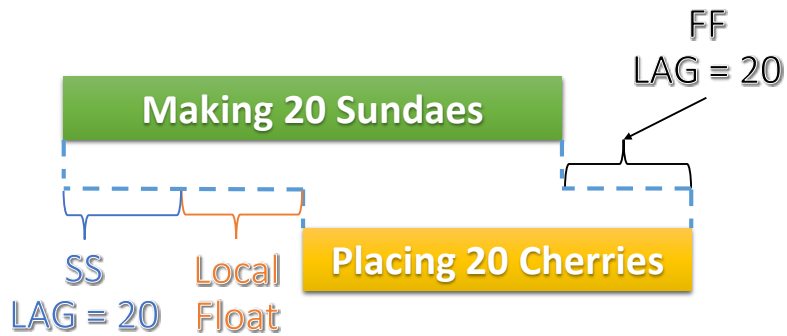
Relationships



Relationships



Relationships



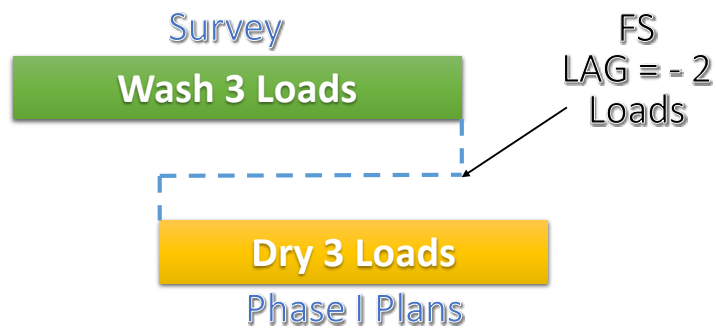
Relationships



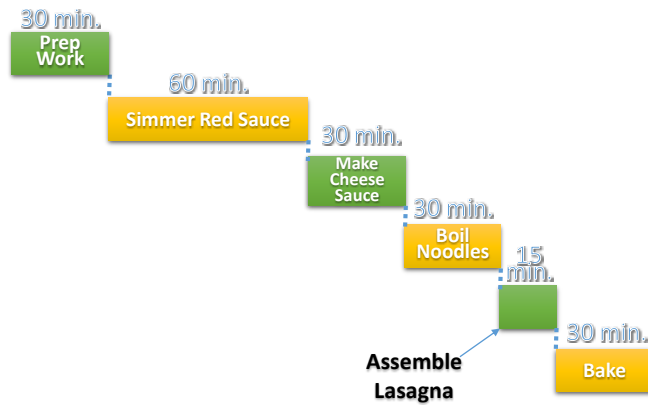
Relationships



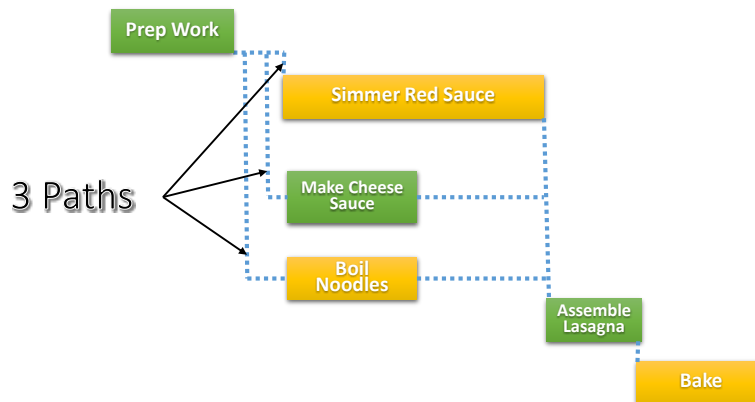
Relationships



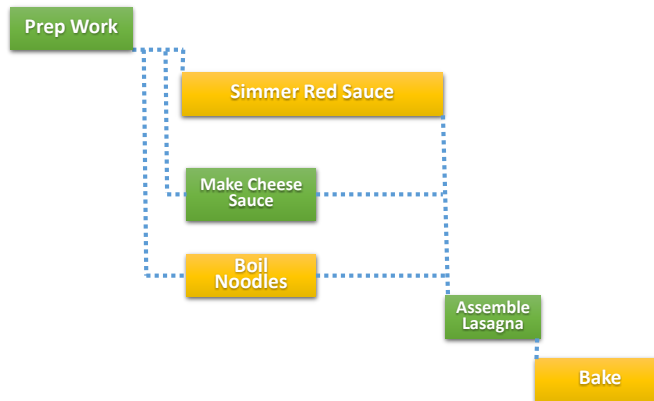
Building Proper Lasagna Relationships



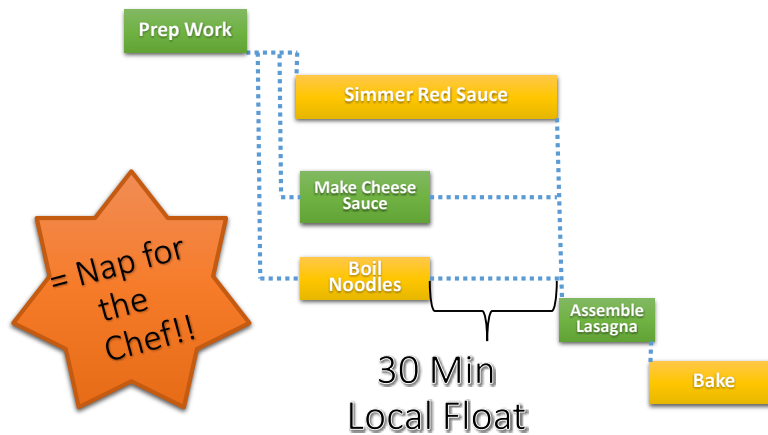
Building Proper Lasagna Relationships



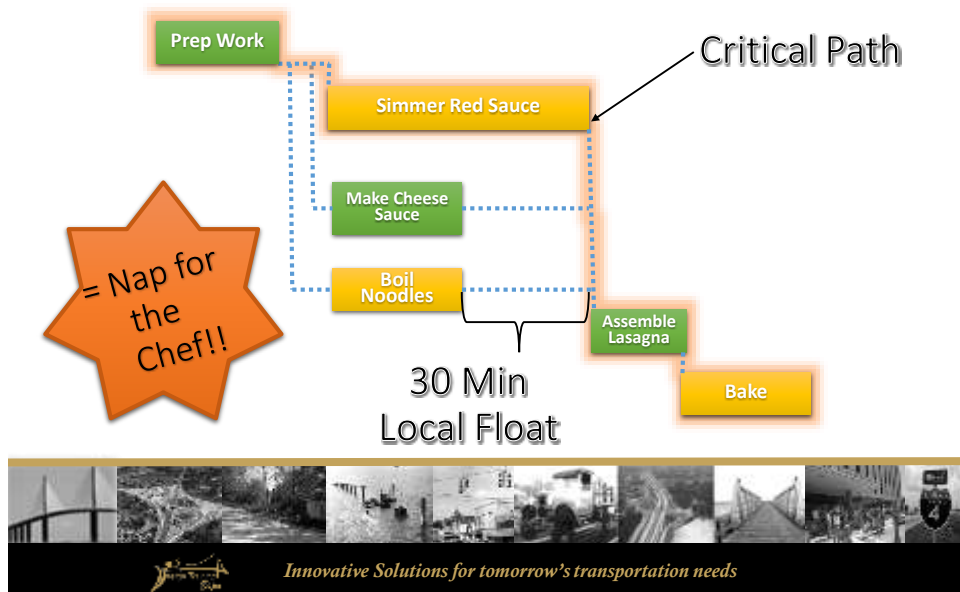
Building Proper Lasagna Relationships



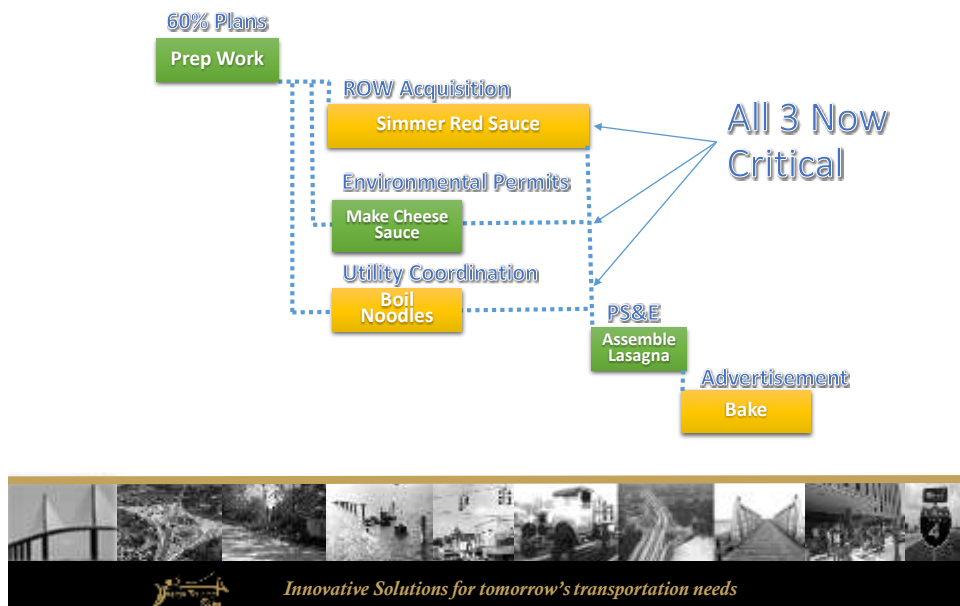
Building Proper Lasagna Relationships



Building Proper Lasagna Relationships



Building Proper Lasagna Relationships



A CPM Schedule is actually THREE schedules



Early Schedule
= *Earliest*

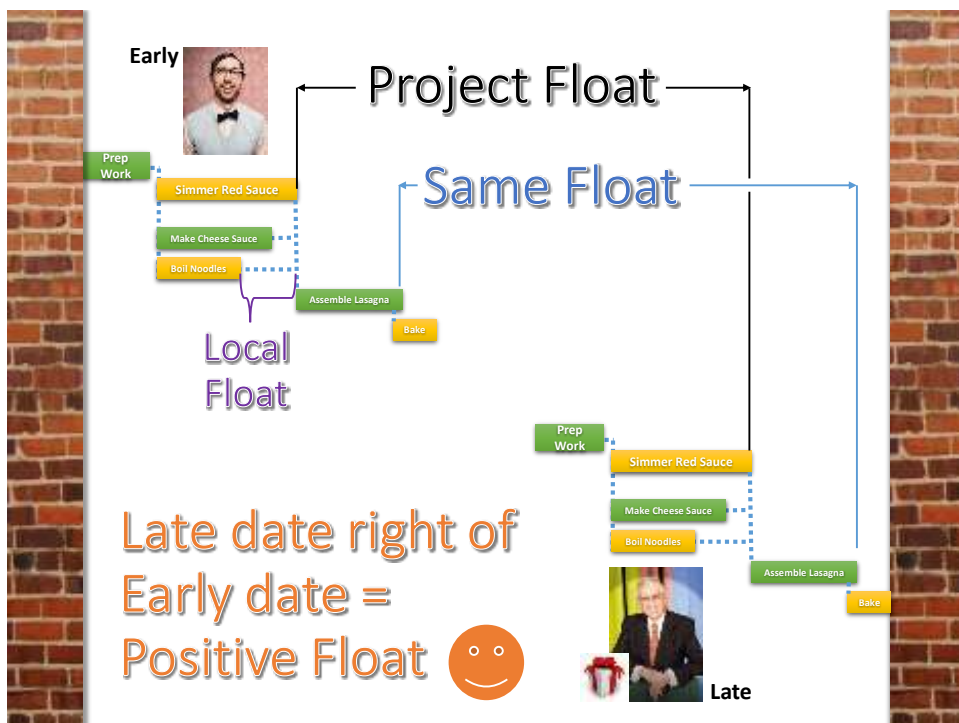
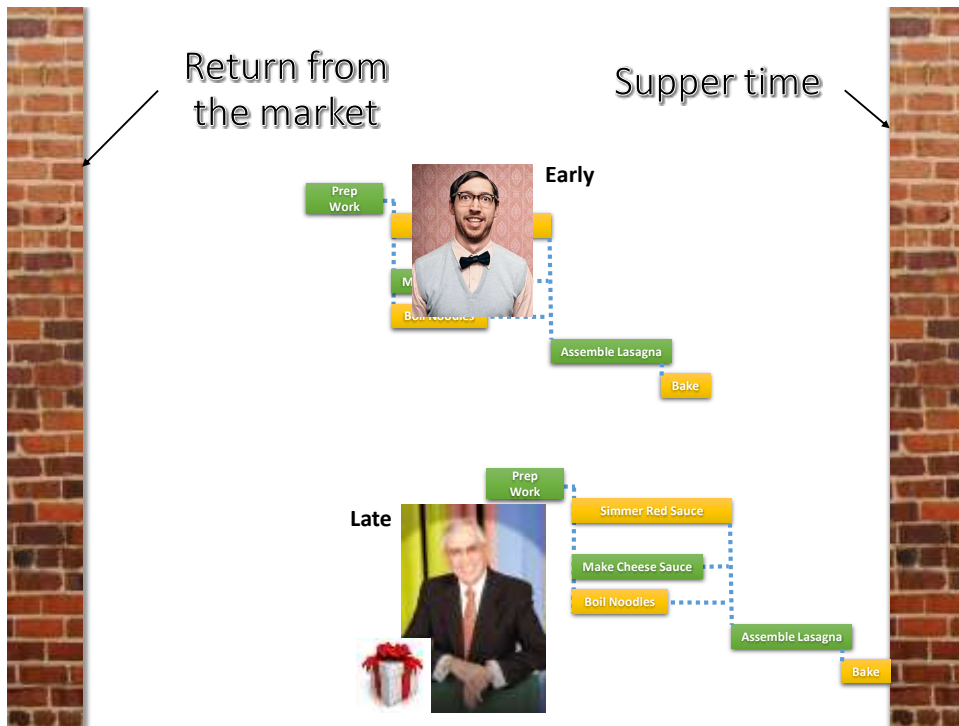


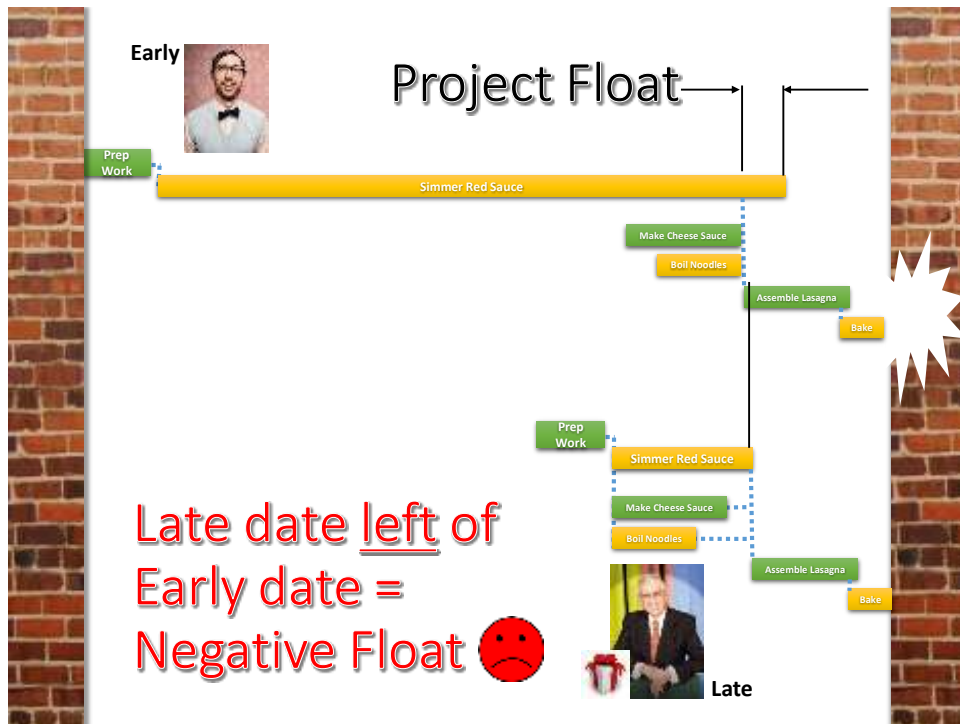
Late Schedule
= Latest



Reality
= Actual
= A







Tips for Schedule Greatness

1. Schedules are living, breathing things
 - Activity bar lengths swell and shrink depending on reality
 - If something swells (takes longer) then something else will shrink (get shorter)
 - K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple, Silly)



Tips for Schedule Greatness

2. Calibrate the template

- Are relationships valid for your project?
- Negative float can mean durations or relationships just need changing
- Remove activities that don't apply



Tips for Schedule Greatness

3. Remember: Float = Fluff

- Schedule stew has many chefs
- Remind all schedule chefs (reporters) that project float is shared



Really: Project Float is Shared



Not Individually Owned



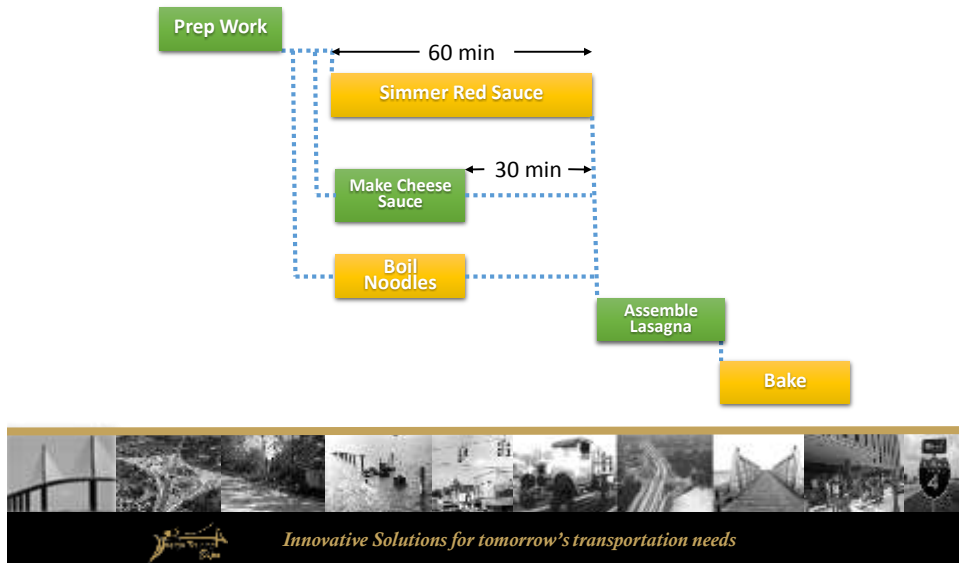
Tips for Schedule Greatness

3. Remember: Float = Fluff

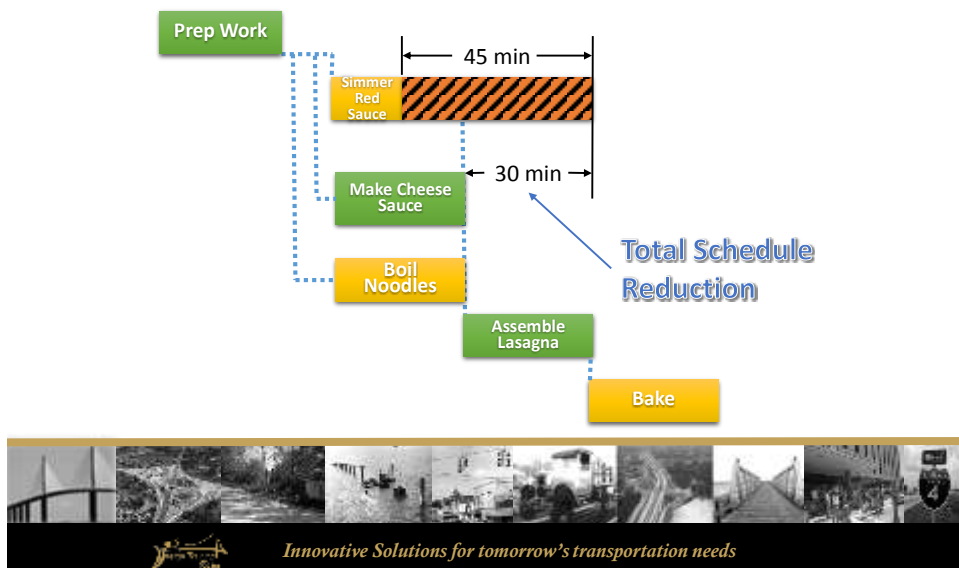
- Schedule stew has many chefs
- Remind all schedule chefs (reporters) that project float is shared
- Really: project float is shared, not individually owned
- Practice forgiveness and ask for accurate start/finish predictions (No individual Fluff, Please)
 - If you believe in Tuesday delivery, say "Tuesday Delivery"



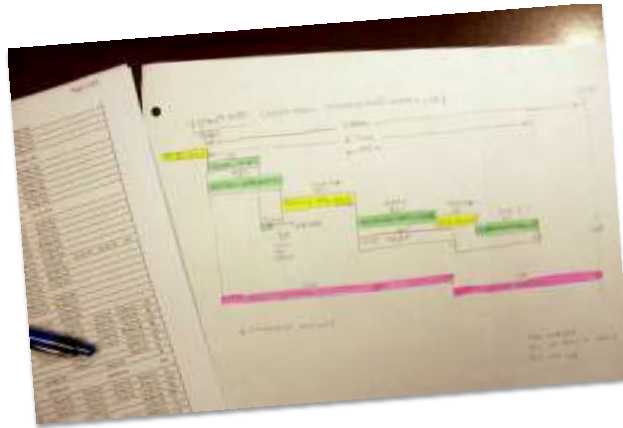
Crunching/Crashing the Schedule



Crunching/Crashing the Schedule



Crunching/Crashing the Schedule



In CPM Schedule Land....

- Number of Days = Weekdays
 - . 5 days = 1 Week
 - . 21ish Days = 1 Month
 - . 260 Days = 1 Year
 - . Hidden Float



Negative Float? All is Not Lost!

- May need simple re-calibration
 - Relationships valid?
 - Activity durations valid?
 - Have the “Actual” dates been entered?
 - Get regular check-ups from your schedule doctor



Questions?

